

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03540 241444Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 MCT-01 /080 W
-----039602 241446Z /43

O 241150Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1470
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 3540

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: VAN HEERDEN COMMENTS ON AG AND BOMBING INCIDENT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BOTH'S AIDE NEIL VAN HEERDEN TOLD COUNSELOR JUNE 23 THAT CONTACT GROUP SHOULD DISREGARD THE AG'S JUNE 21 PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT AN ELECTION DATE WOULD BE REVEALED SOON (PRETORIA 3470). HE SAID THE AG HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT AND THAT HE WOULD NOT REPEAT IT. HE IMPLIED THAT STEYN WAS BEGINNING TO HARBOR AN OVERBLOWN IMAGE OF HIS ROLE AS "KING OF SOUTH WEST." HE INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADMONISHED THE AG ABOUT HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

2. VAN HEERDEN SAID THAT AS SOON AS THEY HAD THE
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DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE RECENT BOMBING OF THE WINDHOEK-WALVIS BAY RAILROAD (PRETORIA 3501), THE SAG WOULD BE APPROACHING THE CONTACT GROUP ON THE SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO VAN HEERDEN, THE TYPE OF EXPLOSIVE USED WAS SIMILAR TO THAT PROVIDED BY THE SOVIETS. VAN HEERDEN ASSERTED THAT THIS WAS A SERIOUS INCIDENT WHICH COULD HAVE HAD MAJOR REVERBERATIONS IF

SOME OF THE CHILDREN, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, TRAVELING
ON THE TRAIN, HAD BEEN INJURED OR KILLED.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780623/aaaaatvs.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04391782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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